Amendments to the Specification:

In the Specification:

Please amend the specification as shown:

Please delete the paragraph on page 21, lines 28-30 and replace it with the following paragraph:

FIGURE 5(a) shows the position of the FAF-4 796bp sequence in relation to the *w-pkci* gene. **Primers disclosed as SEQ ID NOS: 27-28, respectively, in order of appearance.** FIGURE 5(b) shows the relative position of the PCR 204bp product with respect to the FAF-4 796bp sequence clone.

Please delete the paragraph at page 22, lines 8-9 and replace it with the following paragraph:

FIGURE 8 shows the nucleotide sequence for the differential display fragment of 324bp (FAF-1) **(SEQ ID NO: 1)**.

Please delete the paragraph at page 22, line 11 and replace it with the following paragraph:

FIGURE 9 shows the nucleotide sequence of FAF-2 of 796bp **(SEQ ID NO: 2)**.

Please delete the paragraph at page 22, line 13 and replace it with the following paragraph:

FIGURE 10 shows the nucleotide sequence of FAF-3 of 772bp **(SEQ ID NO: 3)**.

Please delete the paragraph at page 22, line 15 and replace it with the following paragraph:

FIGURE 11 shows the nucleotide sequence of FAF-4 of 796bp **(SEQ ID NO: 4)**.

Please delete the paragraph at page 22, line 17 and replace it with the following paragraph:

FIGURE 12 shows the nucleotide sequence of FAF-5 of 1283bp **(SEQ ID NO: 5)**.

Please delete the paragraph at page 22, line 19 and replace it with the following paragraph:

FIGURE 13 shows a fragment of the nucleotide sequence of FAF from Turkey **(SEQ ID NO: 6)**.

Please delete the paragraph at page 22, line 21 and replace it with the following paragraph:

FIGURE 14 shows a fragment of the nucleotide sequence of FAF from Quail **(SEQ ID NO: 7)**.

Please delete the paragraph at page 22, lines 23-25 and replace it with the following paragraph:

FIGURE 15 shows the putative ORFs for isolated chicken FAF clones: Figure 15(a) shows the putative ORFs for FAF1 **(SEQ ID NO: 8-9, respectively, in order of appearance)**, Figure 15(b) for FAF2 **(SEQ ID NO: 10-16, respectively, in order of appearance)**, Figure 15(c) for FAF3 **(SEQ ID NO: 17-20, respectively, in order of appearance)**, Figure 15(d) for FAF4 **(SEQ ID NO: 21-22, respectively, in order of appearance)** and Figure 15(e) for FAF5 **(SEQ ID NO: 23-24, respectively, in order of appearance)**.

Please delete the paragraph on page 23, lines 12-24, and replace it with the following paragraph:

Differential display analysis of RNA from male and female whole chicken embryos harvested on days 2.5, 3, 3.5, 4, and 4.5 using primers dT_{12}-MC **(SEQ ID NO: 25)** (M=A,G,C) and DM8 (AGTGCCGTTA**; SEQ ID NO: 26**) revealed two bands which appeared to be female specific. These bands were cut out from the display gel, re-amplified using primers containing EcoR1 restriction sites and cloned into EcoR1 digested pBΠSK$^+$. Colonies obtained were screened for inserts, by PCR, using T7 and T3 primers. Two positive clones, 378.2.2 and 378.2.6 were obtained having insert sizes of approximately 350bp, roughly the size of insert expected from the bands cut from the display gel. A fraction of the display reactions were run on an agarose/TBE gel and Southern blotted (Miele *et al* 2000). ^{32}P-labelled inserts from the isolated differential display clones were used to probe the blots. They gave the same female specific banding pattern, confirming that they corresponded to the cDNA bands cut from the display gel. Sequence analysis of the two clones revealed that they were identical.

Please delete the paragraph on page 25, lines 4-14 and replace it with the following paragraph:

PCR primers were designed from the 796 bp sequence of FAF-4. The sequences of the primers were FAF-Forward primer 5'-AGAATAAACGCCCCTCGATT-3' **(SEQ ID NO: 27)**, and FAF reverse primer, 5'-CAGGTTCTCTTTCTCGGTCG-3' **(SEQ ID NO: 28)**. PCR reactions were performed in 25µl 10mM Tris-HCl, 1.5mM ~~MgCl2~~**$MgCl_2$**, 50mM KC1 pH8.3 containing 200µM dNTP's, 0.8µM primers and 1U Taq polymerase. Following an initial denaturation step of 2 minutes at 94°C, DNA was denatured at 94°C for 30 seconds, annealed at 50°C, or 53°C, or 57°C for 30 seconds and extended at 72°C for 30 seconds. Reactions were subjected to 30 cycles of amplification. A final extension step at 72°C for 5 minutes was carried out. After amplification, 20µl of reaction mix was loaded onto a 1% TBE / agarose gel and electrophoresed for 1 hour at 100 volts. The results are shown in Figure 3.

Please delete the paragraph on page 26, lines 5-9 and replace it with the following paragraph:

Figure 5(a) shows the position of the [FAF]8 796bp sequence in relation to the *w-pkci* gene and Figure 5(b) shows the relative position of the PCR 204bp product with respect to the [FAF]8 796bp sequence clone. The forward primer (A) is

5'-AGAATAAACGCCCCTCGATT-3' **(SEQ ID NO: 29).**

Please delete the paragraph on page 26, lines 11-13 and replace it with the following paragraph:

The reverse primer (B) is

5'-CAGGTTCTCTTTCTCGGTCG-3' **(SEQ ID NO: 30).**